

September 1984

25th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE
ILLINOIS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

COIN DIGEST



KURT R. KRUEGER



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— AFFILIATED WITH —

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Central States Numismatic Association

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AS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

ILLINOIS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION COIN DIGEST ADVERTISING RATES

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PERMANENT COIN CLUB SHOW DATES

SHOW CHAIRMAN: EDWARD VOSS

**Member Clubs: Please check this listing before scheduling
your next show! Send listings to Show Chairman EARLY!**

February — 2nd Sunday: Rantoul Coin Club, Rantoul

February — 4th Sunday: Gibson City Coin Club, Gibson City

March — 1st Sunday: Wat-Cha-Kee Coin Club, Watseka

March — 2nd weekend: Dupo Coin Club, Fairview Heights

March — 3rd Sunday: Freeport Coin Club, Freeport

March — 3rd Sunday: Kankakee Coin Club, Kankakee

April — Last weekend (two days): Mattoon Coin Club, Mattoon

April — Last Saturday: Corn Belt Coin Club, Bloomington

September — Last Sunday: Fairfield

October — 1st Saturday: Corn Belt Coin Club, Bloomington

**October — 2nd Sunday: Viking Club of Moline,
1450 First Street, Moline, Illinois 61265**

October — 3rd Sunday: Kankakee Coin Club, Kankakee

October — 3rd Sunday: McHenry County Coin Club, Crystal Lake

October — 4th Sunday: Hoopeston Coin Club, Hoopeston

November — 1st Sunday: Champaign-Urbana Coin Club, Urbana

November — 1st Sunday: Dixon Coin Club, Dixon

November — 1st Sunday: Centralia Coin Club, Centralia

November — 2nd Sunday: Aurora Coin Club, Aurora

EDITORIAL

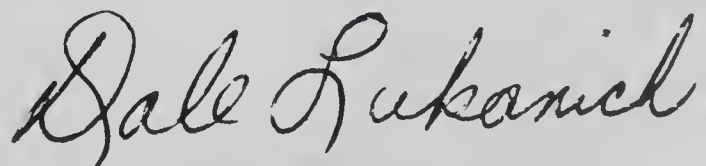
What are you waiting for — An Invitation?

Well here it is. Welcome to our Summer Issue or what we like to call our Show Issue. And the invitation is to our State Show. This year the show will be held in Peoria at the Continental Plaza. Besides being one of the best shows in the Midwest, this year's show will be celebrating our 25th Anniversary as a Numismatic Association. We will have over 100 dealers, most of which will be listed in this publication. Please take note of this because these are some of the top dealers in the country.

If you are not familiar with the city, I will give you some ideas. The Continental Plaza is an ultra modern hotel with plenty of parking and plenty of rooms (but they're going fast). In close proximity there are great restaurants and shopping. Besides the great city and show, if you come to Peoria, you can see me! Well, me and all the other member of the board. Stop in and give us your opinion of the organization.

We would also like to say Good Job to Sam Johnson for winning the Elston Bradfield Literary Award for the second year in a row. The Elston Bradfield Award is given for the outstanding article in the previous year's issue of the "Centinel." The Centinel is the quarterly publication of the Central States Numismatic Society. ILLNA is proud to have Sam as President and also one of the top contributors to the ILLNA Digest. If you will note, Sam also has a great article in this issue titled Kaskaskia, Illinois, was once the Metropolis of the Midwest. Thanks Sam for all the time and effort you put into our organization.

In this issue members of ILLNA will find their complementary elongated 1959 dime. The dimes were struck on uncirculated 1959 coins to commemorate the 25th year of the Association. It's nice to know that in 1959 we started with a handful of dedicated people and now have over 250 members. Happy Birthday ILLNA.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Lukanich". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Dale Lukanich

LIST OF CONFIRMED DEALERS

A & A Coins & Stamps
 All American Coins
 Avenue Coins
 A-Z Coins & Stamps
 A-Z Coins Inc.
 Jack Baxter
 Erv Beskow & Associates, Inc.
 Marvin Bierman
 B & J Coin Shop
 Blackhawk Coins
 B & R Coin Shop
 Bill Bright
 Burke & Astrich
 Cellar Coin Co.
 City Centre Coins
 Civic Coin Center
 Dave Clenney
 Cline's Rare Coins
 Coin Castle
 Coin Investment Center
 Coins Unlimited
 Crossroads Coins, Inc.
 Daru
 Decatur Coin & Auction
 David Derzon Co.
 Don's Coins
 Ebesco, Inc.
 - Edgar's Coin Shop
 Wm. Egbert Inc.
 Emporium Coin Co.
 Erin Coins
 Fairfield Rare Coins
 Fanger Numismatics
 Ron Farley
 Fort Findlay Enterprises
 Foster & Knight
 Robert Gartenberg
 Gold Dust Coin Inc.
 Gold Eagle Coin Shop
 Gray and Sons, Jewelry
 Hadley's Coins
 Charles E. Hayes
 House of Stuart
 James & Sons Ltd.
 Just Rite Rare Coins
 Michael L. Kolman
 Bob Korosec
 K.T. Investment Rarities Ltd.
 Len's Coins & Stamps

Iowa City, Iowa
 Grover, Missouri
 Appleton, Wisconsin
 Hamilton, Indiana
 Ft. Wayne, Indiana
 Erie, Pennsylvania
 Chicago, Illinois
 Chesterfield, Missouri
 Springfield, Illinois
 East Moline, Illinois
 Gilman, Illinois
 Cedar Falls, Iowa
 Houston, Texas
 San Diego, California
 Middleton, Ohio
 Elgin, Illinois
 St. Louis, Missouri
 Dayton, Ohio
 Memphis, Texas
 Tulsa, Oklahoma
 West Carrollton, Ohio
 Vandalia, Ohio
 Chicago, Illinois
 Decatur, Illinois
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 Love's Park, Illinois
 Waukegan, Illinois
 Vienna, West Virginia
 Westerville, Ohio
 Moorhead, Minnesota
 Livonia, Michigan
 Fort Wayne, Indiana
 Ft. Wayne, Indiana
 Metamora, Illinois
 Findlay, Ohio
 St. Louis, Missouri
 Chicago, Illinois
 Chicago, Illinois
 DeKalb, Illinois
 Miami Beach, Florida
 Peoria, Illinois
 Rolla, Missouri
 Tonganoxie, Kansas
 Calumet City, Illinois
 Brooklyn, New York
 Cleveland, Ohio
 West Allis, Wisconsin
 South Bend, Indiana
 Middleton, Wisconsin

LIST OF CONFIRMED DEALERS (Continued)

Liberty Coin Co.	Crystal Lake, Illinois
Madison Coins & Currency	Madison, Indiana
Madison Coin Box	Madison, New Jersey
Ben Marlenee Inc.	Des Moines, Iowa
Matthews Money Tree Co.	Sanibel, Florida
McKee Coins	Oskaloosa, Iowa
Russell Miller	Clay City, Indiana
Allen Mincho	Cedar Park, Texas
M & M Investments	Pekin, Illinois
Money Tree Coin Brokerage	Rockford, Illinois
Mr. Wimp's Coins	Ft. Wayne, Indiana
Nevada Coin Shop	Ames, Iowa
Noise	Wooddale, Illinois
Numisco Inc.	Chicago, Illinois
Numismatic Professionals of Dallas	Dallas, Texas
Oak Creek Currency	Oak Creek, Wisconsin
Oklahoma Federated Gold	Tulsa, Oklahoma
Onotonagon Trading Company	Rockland, Michigan
Mike Orlando	St. Louis, Missouri
Palace of Coins	Peoria, Illinois
Paul & Judy's Coins	Arcola, Illinois
Peters Numismatics	Rockford, Illinois
Pilolli Associates	Boardman, Ohio
Pohlman's Coins	Jefferson City
Polk Place Coin	Greenwood, Indiana
Paul J. Puckett	Spokane, Washington
Rockford Coin	Rockford, Illinois
Roesslers	Indianapolis, Indiana
Ron's Coins	Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Royal Rare Coins	Houston, Texas
Royalty Coins	San Antonio, Texas
Sears Coin Shop	Mishawaka, Indiana
Silvertown	Winchester, Indiana
S & S Coins	Decatur, Illinois
Stamps Coins Shells	Joliet, Illinois
Standafer Coins	Tampa, Florida
Starkey & Raye	Wheeling, Illinois
Patrick J. Sullivan	Sioux Falls, So. Dakota
Dean Tavenner	Deer Lodge, Montana
Chet Taylor	Long Beach, California
Texas International Gold, Inc.	Sugar Land, Texas
John W. Twente	Columbia, Missouri
Village Square Rare Coins	Hazelwood, Missouri
Virginia's Coin Shop	Peoria, Illinois
Chuck Walanka Coin	Skokie, Illinois
Walt's Coins	Columbus, Indiana
Ralph C. Winquist	Rockford, Illinois
Wolfer's Coins	Pekin, Illinois
World Coin Co. of America	Chicago, Illinois

CLUB NEWS

On Sunday, October 21st, the Kankakee Valley Coin & Stamp Club will sponsor their fall show. The show will be held at Clemans Auction Gallery on Highway 17. Free admission and doors will open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 5:00 p.m. Some dealer's tables are still open but going fast. For more information call Kenneth R. Posing at (815) 933-3804 days or (815) 933-9466 evenings.

ILLNA

President Sam Johnson has reappointed the entire board of directors for a one-year term. He also announced the nomination of Mark Wieclaw for the office of treasurer. This action was necessitated by the retirement of current treasurer, Bill Miller. Bill has done an outstanding job for many years and will certainly be missed. We wish you and your wife, Phyllis, the best of luck in the future.

Our organization was well represented at the recent ANA Convention in Detroit. Exhibitors included John and Nancy Wilson, Mark Wieclaw, and Carl Wolf. Carl received a first place award for his display of "The Chicago Coin Club's 50th Anniversary Medals." Nancy not only received a first place award in her category of paper money, she also took the "Best of Show" Award, while John finished second in the same category. Congratulations to all! At the other end of the exhibiting spectrum was Leroy Kaczor, who served as a judge in the obsolete paper money category.

Other ILLNA members that were observed in the bourse area were Jim Erlenborn, Don Fisher, Merv and Susan Quarles, Jim Beasley, Debbie Wilamowski, and Shirley Wilamowski.

Besides exhibiting, Carl Wolf served as the chairman of the numismatic theater. Different facets of numismatics were discussed each day and Carl kept the program running smoothly.

CHICAGO COIN CLUB

Carl Wolf has recently been appointed by ANA President Q. David Bowers to head the "1891 Club." This club was formed to raise additional promotion funds for the Association's 100th Anniversary Convention in Chicago in 1991. Anyone interested in being a part of this club should contact Carl through the Chicago Coin Club (address provided elsewhere in the "Digest.")

TAZEWELL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Pekin, Illinois. August 25 and 26. The Tazewell Numismatic Society Coin Club 21st Annual Show will be held at the Elks Club, 335 Sabella (across from Pekin Public Library and Dirksen Center). Admission free, contact Norman E. Wolfer, Box 201, Pekin, Illinois 61554.

WILL COUNTY COIN CLUB

A record 19 exhibits were on hand for the viewing pleasure of the more than four hundred people that attended the club's 25th annual show on April 15. Stuart Koppleman's "The Captain Cook Medals" won best of show.

The club is now planning their fall banquet for October 27. The site of the banquet will be announced at the September meeting.

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

Virgil Richardson

Russell Kalusch

Vickie Klausch

Clarence Linton

M. Grossman

Ray Kotansky

John Glass

Samuel Boyd

If you have any idea where to contact these people please let us know.

Virgil M. Richardson, 2705 Brady St., Davenport, Iowa 52803.

Russell & Vickie Klausch, Box 407, Jackson, Wisconsin 53037.

Clarence O. Linton, 26 Fairway Estates, Granite City, Illinois 62040.

M. Grossman, Box 2115 Brentwood Station, Decatur, Illinois 62525.

Ray Kotansky, 126 S. Monroe, Streator, Illinois 61364.

John Glass, Box 388, Aurora, Illinois 60504.

Samuel J. Boyd, Box 130, Rollins, Illinois 60422.

NEW! NEW! NEW!

With the hopes of increasing membership response, a number of new ideas are being implemented in this issue of the "Digest." We hope that you as individuals or as entire clubs will take an active interest and participate. New ideas are always welcome, so please don't hesitate to forward them to us.

Membership applications or questions should be sent to the secretary. All other questions or responses should be directed to the editor. Please see Page 1 for the correct addresses.

CLUB COMPETITION

The club that brings in the most individual members to ILLNA will receive \$50. This competition will run from September 1 through August 31. The winning club will be announced at the state show. Membership applications are found elsewhere in the "Digest." Please make a copy of this for each member and state that the club is sponsoring them.

LITERARY AWARDS

A literary award will be given to the author of the best article to appear in the "Digest." This competition will run from September 1 through August 31, and the winner will be announced at the state show. If enough articles are submitted by junior members, they will have a separate contest.

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Do you know your ILLNA membership number? If not, check your membership card; you might be a winner. In each issue of the "Digest" we will list one person's membership number. If they identify themselves within 30 days, they receive a previous year's proof set. The winning number for this issue is #808.

NUMISMATIC QUIZ

Each issue will contain a question pertaining to numismatics. The person that sends the correct answer* will receive a 1-oz. pure silver medallion issued by ILLNA. In case of more than one correct entry a drawing will be held to select the winner. The first question is: Name the U.S. Presidents that have had their portrait appear on coinage while still living and also name the coins. Good luck!

*Within 30 days

EXHIBITS

We are looking for exhibits to be on display at the state show. In honor of the "Silver Anniversary" of ILLNA **each** exhibit will receive a 1-oz. pure silver medallion. The top three exhibits in each category will also receive ribbons and a cash prize. As we go to print we do not have exhibit applications, but hope to receive them before mailing.

ILLNA COIN CLUBS

Centralia Coin Club
928 N. Elm St.
Centralia, IL 62801

Fairfield Coin Club
Rte. 3
Fairfield, IL 62837

Central Illinois Numismatic Assoc.
1013 North Second St.
Springfield, IL 62702

Freeport Coin Club
1227 S. Armstrong Ave.
Freeport, IL 61032

Champaign-Urbana Coin Club
700 Dover Place
Champaign, IL 61820

Hilltop Coin Club
600 High
Gillespie, IL 62033

Chicago Coin Club
P.O. Box 2301
Chicago, IL 60690

Hoopeston Coin Club
501 E. Main St., P.O. Box 234
Hoopeston, IL 60942

Dupo Coin Club
P.O. Box 1982
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

Kankakee Coin Club
P.O. Box 150
Bradley, IL 60915

Elgin Coin Club
P.O. Box 1374
Elgin, IL 60120

Lake County Coin Club
2210 Crescent Ave.
Waukegan, IL 60085

Mattoon Coin Club
P.O. Box 143
Mattoon, IL 61938

Schaumburg Numismatic Society
P.O. Box 94246
Schaumburg, IL 60194

McHenry County Coin Club
P.O. Box 271
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Soy City Coin Club Inc.
P.O. Box 862
Decatur, IL 62525

Mt. Vernon Coin Club
507 Halia Crest
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Tazewell Numismatic Society
P.O. Box 969
Pekin, IL 61555

Peoria District Coin Club
c/o Virginia's Coin Shop, Inc.
2139 N. Knoxville Ave.
Peoria, IL 61614

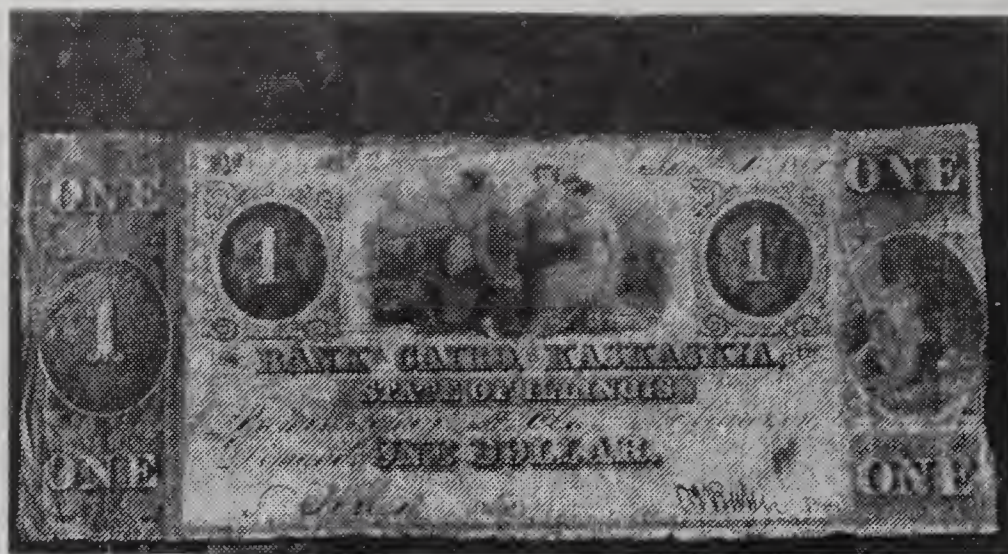
Tri-Cities Coin Club
P.O. Box 332
Moline, IL 61265

Rantoul Coin Club
Rantoul Public Library
Rantoul, IL 61866

Wat-Cha-Kee Coin Club
909 S. Fifth St.
Watseka, IL 60970

Rockford Area Coin Club
P.O. Box 1974
Rockford, IL 61110

Will County Coin Club
1517 Glenwood Ave.
Joliet, IL 60435



KASKASKIA, ILLINOIS, WAS ONCE THE METROPOLIS OF THE MIDWEST

By Samuel W. Johnson Jr. NLG

Kaskaskia? Illinoisans are familiar with the Kaskaskia River, but know little about the town. Many obsolete currency collectors have seen notes from the town. However, the story behind these notes is unknown to the huge majority of Americans today.

A glance on an Illinois highway map will further confuse people. The town's current population is 90 people. The town is located on a Mississippi River island about 50 miles southeast of St. Louis. Friends, this is the "new" town of Kaskaskia.

This article will feature the "old" town, which is now only a memory. Quite surprisingly, as the title indicates, old Kaskaskia was once overwhelmingly the metropolis of the midwest. It's glory and prominence was peaking long before towns such as Chicago even existed!

Unfortunately, the town had an unthinking but powerful enemy. This article could easily have been titled, "The Rise, Fall, and Destruction of Kaskaskia." The enemy was the Mississippi River, alias "ol' man river." In a most comparable way, old Kaskaskia is now "The Atlantis of the Midwest."

So, take a few minutes and read the story. Read about the grandeur and riches of the midwest's first metropolis, the obsolete currency of one of the first banks in Illinois, and much more. Old Kaskaskia would become Illinois' first state capital. Thousands of famous early Americans trod the streets of the town. In Italy, all roads once led to Rome. In the midwest, all roads/trails once led to Kaskaskia. Unemployment and crime were nearly non-existent in the town. It was once beautiful - as close to "Utopia" as one could get!

To begin this story, we must go way back in time. So, put on your seat belts and make yourself comfortable 'cause here we go! For many thousands of years, Indians lived near and around the future town's site. They were later known as the Kaskaskian Indians.

The exact time of the discovery and settlement of the area by the white man is not known. It is generally thought to be about 1684. Noted early explorers named Marquette and Joliet floated past the Kaskaskian Indian village in canoes about 1670. LaSalle and his friend Tonti stopped at the village in 1684 and established a trading post.

A few years later, Father Alious established a mission station there. This devoted Christian missionary's station was the reason that French traders soon stopped at the site. This, in effect, started the transition from an Indian village into a French village. These traders, however, were nearly constantly on the move. They were not permanent residents. Kaskaskia probably could not be considered anything more than a mission station and part-time trading post prior to 1712.

After 1712, but definitely prior to 1720, many settlers arrived from Canada and France. They did become permanent residents. These pioneers certainly resided "in the middle of nowhere!" There were no other settlements nearby. Communication with the outside world was almost nil.

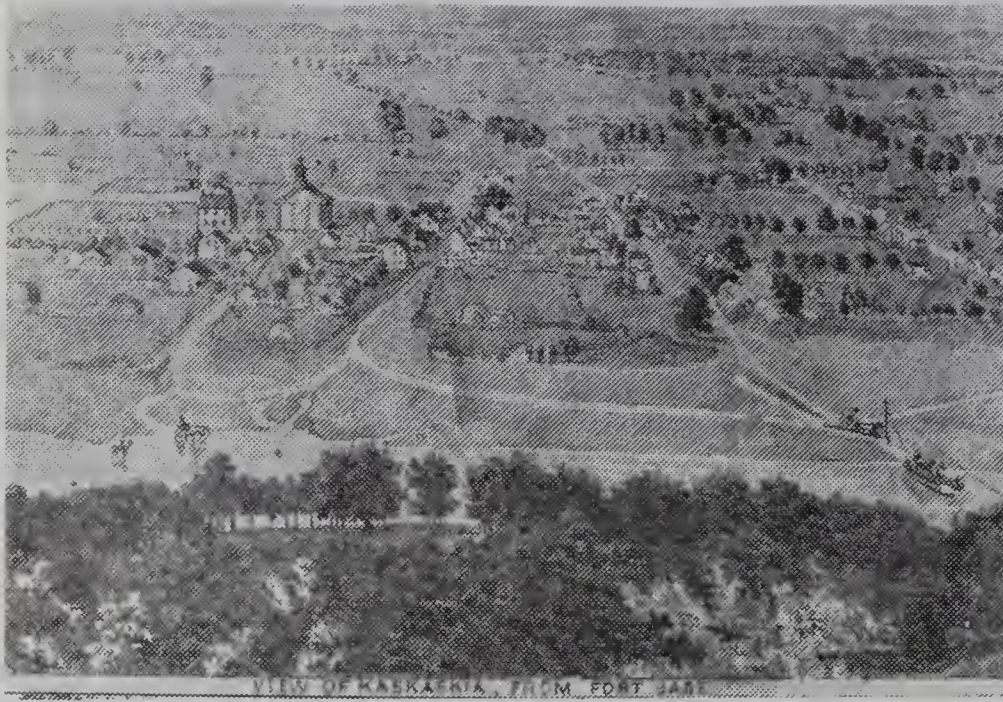
But, these people enjoyed life better than most. They lived in peace among themselves and with the Indians. These early French people were hard working, brotherly, honest, and contented people. They brought with them the gaieties of Paris life and indulged in many forms of dancing and games.

They introduced the French system of agriculture, i.e., each family had a parcel of land in "the common field." If the head of a family became ill, his crops were cared for by the others. However, if a man was physically able and did not plant crops, his parcel of land would be given to someone else. Each plot of land was distinctly marked.

The soil on the Mississippi bottom land was extremely rich. Large quantities of wheat and corn were raised with surprisingly little cultivation. The French sometimes traded their grain to the Indians for buffalo, venison, or bear meat. They had no real cares or anxieties. It was a great life for them as the years passed by.

The town of Kaskaskia grew around the mission and trading post. Following the French and English wars in the middle part of the 1700's, all of the territory east of the Mississippi was ceded to the English in 1763. The first English army officers arrived in 1765 to take charge of the territory.

The English appointed judges who held court and this was the first jurisdiction ever held in the Mississippi Valley. In 1772, the seat of government was moved to Kaskaskia. The small British garrison of troops was nearby. The town really began to grow during this period.



This photograph is of a pre-1800 sketch of Kaskaskia at about the time it began to grow in size (Sketch obtained from 1875 Randolph County Atlas)

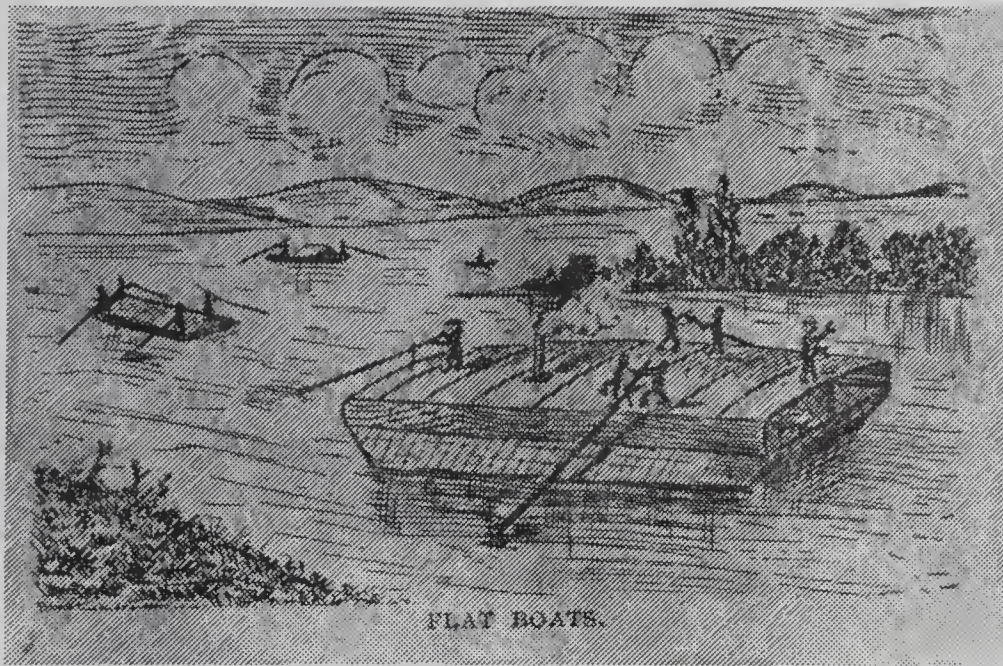
During the next decade, Kaskaskia grew by leaps and bounds. It quickly began to become the metropolis of the midwest. Commerce and industry grew quickly. The town sent massive shipments of trade goods down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. Once there, substantial quantities traveled to Europe via ships. Goods shipped were skins, furs, meat, eggs, grain, flour, lumber, etc. Since the town itself was virtually self sufficient, many of its residents began to become wealthy.

The goods were shipped downriver on “flatboats,” which had many interesting facets. By the way, a voyage from Kaskaskia to New Orleans and back took months! The flatboat was most unusual. It varied in size from ten feet wide and twenty feet long to perhaps 20 feet wide and eighty (or more) feet long. They were designed to “draw” three feet of water, i.e., only three feet of the boat’s side was underwater.

These boats were built alongside the river near the bank where they were to be loaded. The majority of the time, upon reaching their destination, a flatboat was “broken up” and the lumber used for buildings, etc. Some of the better built flatboats had full decks with cabins. These cabins had loopholes so that the crew could defend themselves against river pirates or Indians. Large mounted oars were used to row and steer them. The better built boats were not broken up.

Downstream trips were easy. There were however, dangers that included storms, sandbars, and snags. Upstream trips were very difficult. Sometimes, if the wind was favorable, sails were used. Most of the time though, the boat was rowed or poled upstream. Many times, the men

walked along the river's bank and pulled the boat with a long rope. Other times the boat was "cordelled." In this manner, the rope was carried ahead and tied to a large tree or rock. The crew then pulled the boat ahead by "hand over hand!" Sometimes the flatboats traveled only 5 or 6 miles a day in upstream journeys!



This early pre-1800 sketch reveals what a flatboat looked like. The sketch is somewhat crudely drawn, but the unknown artist certainly "got the job done!" (Sketch obtained from Mather's Book, "The Making of Illinois")

Most flatboats carried trade goods to lower river markets. Others transported settlers and their possessions. The "paddle wheel steamboat" was not used until about 1811 or 1812. Surprisingly, flatboats were still in use for "one way" trips until about 1870!

The people of Kaskaskia and surrounding area took little part in the American Revolution's early years. The town was remotely situated and was not threatened by armies or fighting. During this time, the people just routinely maintained their way of life. In fact, they knew little of what was happening "in the east." The small garrison of British troops stationed nearby passed the time in listless and boring activities.

In Kaskaskia, the year of 1776 passed with no change whatsoever. (This year, as you know, was of great importance in the founding of our nation.) But, the determined eastern colonists were still fighting the English. The year 1777 passed by peacefully, but 1778 would bring a change!

On July 4, 1778, George Rogers Clark and his now legendary band of "Long Knives," took possession of Kaskaskia for "the Flag of Virginia." This was accomplished without firing a shot. The English were "having a ball" (dance) that night. Clark and his men surrounded the building and the town. The Long Knives were heavily armed with rifles, tomahawks, and knives with blades nearly, if not, a foot long!

Clark, with several of his best men flanking him, calmly walked into the building where the dance was being held. The music and dancing quickly stopped. The British officers, their ladies, and soldiers, (dressed in their finest uniforms and dresses) stared aghast at Clark and his men. Clark calmly informed the English that the building was surrounded and that they were no longer in control of the town.

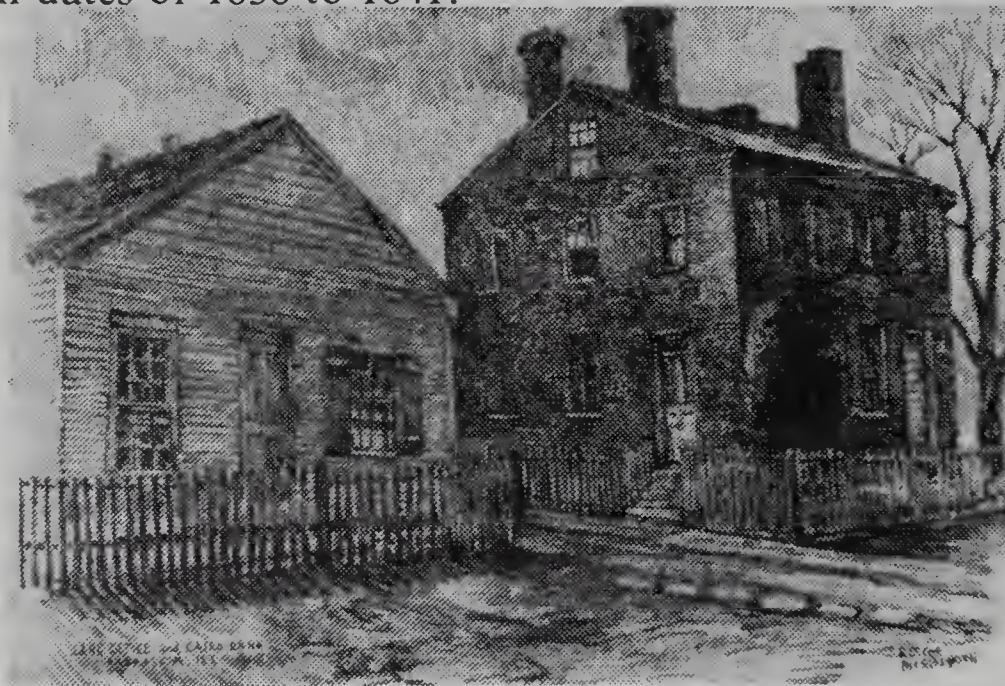
Clark and his men later took control of the entire territory. There was light resistance in 1779 at Vincennes, (Indiana) which was another British fort. Anyway, Kaskaskia was now in control of the colonies and "Illinois Country" was created in 1778.

Virginia ceded "the Northwest Territory" to the continental congress in 1784. In 1787, Arthur St. Clair became governor. Practically all new settlers came to Kaskaskia via boat or overland. Other towns began to spring up within 50 miles of Kaskaskia which began to boom as a trading center.

By 1805, Kaskaskia was a beehive of activity. Huge amounts of goods were being transported downriver to New Orleans. (To give you an idea of the value of some shipments, noted merchant Pierre Menard shipped \$30,000 in furs downriver in the year 1800! The shipping manifest for this one shipment still exists!)

At about this time, there were 12,000 people living in what is now the state of Illinois. Stunningly, 7,000 of them lived in Kaskaskia! The town was overwhelmingly the metropolis of the midwest and gateway to the west! The town was the hub of the interior settlements and played an important part in the founding and development of what is now 6 or 7 states.

In 1809, the first newspaper was founded. From 1809-17 Kaskaskia was the seat of Illinois Territorial Government. In 1818, a bank was founded and granted a 25-year charter. The bank's name was, "The Bank of Cairo, at Kaskaskia." The bank issued now obsolete currency in denominations of \$1.00, \$2.00, \$3.00, \$5.00, and \$10.00. Today, the notes are reasonably easy to obtain. The bank's charter was not renewed in 1843. The notes bear handwritten dates of 1838 to 1841.



A sketch of the bank and land office.

Huge financial transactions took place at the bank. The land office officially recorded tons of thousands of deeds, granted land, etc. (Sketch courtesy of Mr. Roscoe Miselhorn)



\$3.00 \$5.00 \$10.00

(Notes owned by author)

At left are examples of Kaskaskia obsolete currency. Without exception, and not surprisingly, the vignettes on the notes feature shipping and commerce scenes. Note: \$10.00 notes were reportedly printed from engravings on wood blocks. Quite a few high grade \$10.00's exist today. There are also many notes that were damaged and glued or taped together again. However, in many of these cases part of the note is missing. The \$3.00 in the photograph is an example of the latter. The author also knows of a handful of existing proof notes.

Since Kaskaskia was the dominant town, it became Illinois' first state capital in 1818. Now, however, many thousands of people had settled in the central and northern parts of the state. But Kaskaskia was still very much a thriving town.

KASKASKIA'S HISTORIC STATE HOUSE



Illinois' First State House

Photograph courtesy of Sparta News Plaindealer newspaper



Governor's Mansion

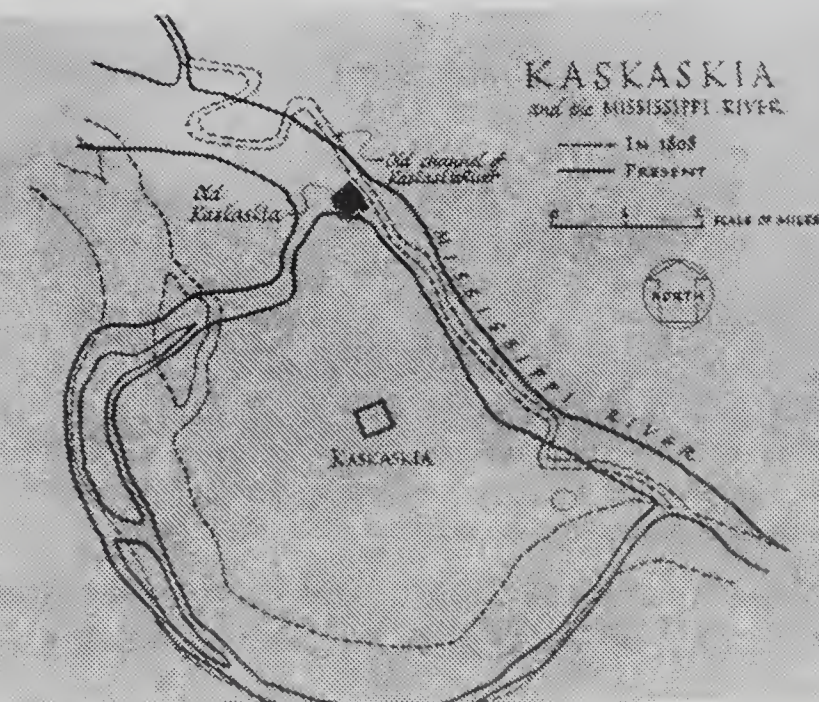
(Sketch courtesy of Mr. Roscoe Misselhorn)

Kaskaskia retained its size and was a major shipping point until 1844. That year, one of the most destructive of all Mississippi River floods occurred. Many of Kaskaskia's houses and buildings were twisted on their foundations or otherwise badly damaged. The town, in general, was nearly wrecked by the water's force.

Although the town survived "the flood of 44," it was not the same. Many business and shipping firms moved "to higher ground" in the upriver St. Louis area. The majority of people, obviously, also moved because of this. The Mississippi, seemingly bent on destroying Kaskaskia, again flooded the town in 1851 and again in 1857.

Remaining buildings were further damaged or destroyed. From this time on, the town was virtually dead. Kaskaskia was located on the bank of the Kaskaskia river, a much smaller river than the Mississippi. The two rivers linked a few miles downstream from the town itself. The Mississippi River was located several miles west of the town.

In 1881, during another flood, the Mississippi cut a new channel across the strip of land that separated it from the Kaskaskia river. The much larger river's current then shifted into the channel of the smaller river. Friends, the town of Kaskaskia was "in the way" of one of the world's largest rivers. (There is no need to say what happened, is there?)



These two maps reveal the two rivers' courses before and after the 1881 flood. The map on the left was drawn in 1808. The map on the right dates from about 1960. The black squares show the previous locations of Kaskaskia. (Sketches courtesy of Mr. John Allen's Book)

As you see, friends, the town of Kaskaskia was literally devoured by ol' man river! Although a large majority of the town disappeared in the 1881 flood, a small section remained until about 1898. Soon afterwards, though, the town had completely vanished.

There was no loss of life when the town was swept away. To the best of my (and others) historical knowledge, no other town in our nation has actually been devoured by a river. No other town can claim this dubious distinction!

In the town, many of the homes were beautiful. They had been built with the finest materials and interior furnishings. These homes rivaled those of the rich in the eastern United States. The ladies of Kaskaskia wore some of

the finest dresses and jewelry in the world. The town's per-capita income had to rank as one of the highest in the world during the glory years of 1790-1844.

Massive amounts of historical information concerning Kaskaskia still survive today. In fact, a large book could be written about the town. Surprisingly little information is available in today's encyclopedias and history books. However, this unique information exists here in the author's home county of Randolph.



Photo of River

This is a scene of the former location of old Kaskaskia. As seen, and as you know, it is now occupied by old man river. The Mississippi is approximately one mile wide here.

Kaskaskia island residents of today haven't changed much. They still have a peaceful life farming the rich ground like their forefathers did. There is hardly any crime or unemployment on the island; the only fear is their old nemesis - the Mississippi River. The island was completely flooded in 1973 when the river breached the levee. Recent improvements in the levee make the people much safer in the future. Additional strengthening and making the levee higher are now planned.

So friends, if you're ever "down in southwestern Illinois," stop by "Fort Kaskaskia State Park." Walk down the stairs or drive to the "Pierre Menard Home." Mr. Menard was a wealthy Kaskaskia merchant. His home overlooked the old town of Kaskaskia. Directly in front of his home is a railroad track. Walk up to the track and over it. (You will quickly see ol' man river.)

Walk down to the river and sit on some of the large rocks or on the sand. Gaze at the river, for that is the former location of the Metropolis of the Midwest. It is quite an eerie feeling. Are they there friends - the ghosts and

spirits from the past? Do they flit about in confusion because they know that this is where their town was? They will unfortunately never find their town for it is the Atlantis of the Midwest.

Final Note: For anyone wishing to visit Kaskaskia Island today, it cannot be reached from “the Illinois side” of the river. You must cross the bridge at Chester, Illinois, and drive to St. Marys, Missouri. There, a bridge will take you over the old channel of the Mississippi onto the island.

Once onto the island, turn left on the road. You will quickly see the peaceful living that “islanders” of today have. In the new town of Kaskaskia today, there is a bell that is older than the famed “Liberty Bell.” View the bell and then have a quiet lunch at one of the nearby picnic tables. (There is only one major road on the island. You cannot get lost or miss the new town.)

While you’re having lunch, look at the farm ground. Remember the early settlers who first farmed the ground? You know the entire story of the forgotten one-time Metropolis of the Midwest.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This was a most difficult article to write because of large amounts of available information. The author tried to condense as much as possible and still tell readers the story. Information sources consulted are as follows:

1. The 1875 and 1901 Randolph County, Illinois, atlases.
2. The Randolph County Historical Society.
3. The Sparta, Illinois, News-Plaindealer newspaper. (Many older issues consulted.)
4. The St. Louis, Missouri, Globe Democrat newspaper. (Many issues consulted.)
5. The late Mr. John Allen and his book, “Legends and Lore of Southern Illinois” printed in 1963.
6. The book, “The Making of Illinois” by Mather. Printed in 1910.
7. Mr. Don Fisher of Currency Unlimited, Decatur, Illinois.
8. Photographer Mrs. Lovita Ingram of Percy, Illinois. (Many photographs reproduced from listed sources.)
9. The book, “The History of Monroe, Randolph, and Perry Counties” (Illinois) originally printed in 1881.
10. Nationally known artist Mr. Roscoe Misselhorn of Sparta, Illinois, who graciously allowed several of his original sketches to be reproduced.

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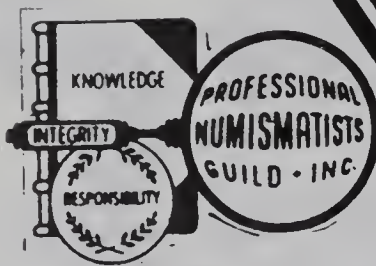
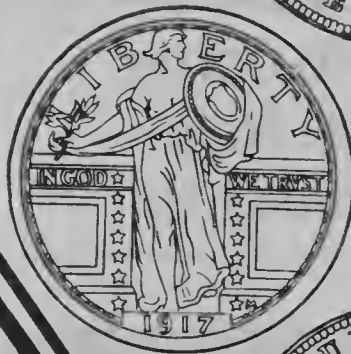
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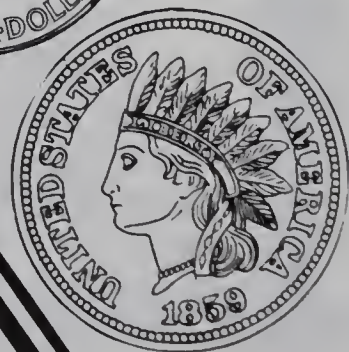
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